

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
Bernd-Georg Pietras

Serial No.: Unknown

Confirmation No.: Unknown

Filed: Herewith

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD
FOR FACILITATING THE
CONNECTION OF TUBULARS
USING A TOP DRIVE

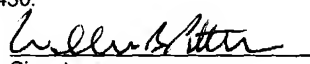
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Group Art Unit: 0

Examiner: Unknown

MAIL STOP NEW APPLICATIONS
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING 37 CFR 1.8	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on July 17, 2003 with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop NEW APPLICATIONS, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.	
Date 17 Jul 03	Signature 

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Applicants, and the Attorney who signs below on the basis of the information supplied by the inventor and the information in his file, submit herewith patents, publications, or other information of which they are aware, which may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56.

While the information submitted in this Information Disclosure Statement may be material pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication, or other information referred to therein is prior art for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97, this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that no other possibly material information as defined under 37 CFR § 1.56(a) exists.

The patents and/or publications submitted herewith are set forth on the attached Form PTO-1449.

If the sum of \$180.00 is due under 37 CFR § 1.17(p) pursuant to § 1.97, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge this fee, and any other fee necessary to make this submission timely, to the Deposit Account No. 20-0782/MRKS/0039.C1.

Respectfully submitted,



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U.S. Department of Commerce, Patent and Trademark Office		Docket No.	Serial No.
(PTO Form 1449 modified)		MRKS/0039.C1	Unknown
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT		Applicant	Confirmation No.:
		Bernd-Georg Pietras	Unknown
(Use several sheets if necessary)		Filing Date	Group
Examiner Frank Tsay		Herewith	Unknown

U.S. Patent Documents

*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Issue Date	Applicant(s) Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	A1	6,431,626	03-13-2002	Bouligny	294	86.25	
	A2	6,412,554	07-02-2002	Allen et al.	166	80.1	
	A3	6,360,633	03-26-2002	Pietras	81	57.34	
	A4	6,349,764	02-26-2002	Adams et al.	166	77.53	
	A5	6,311,792	11-06-2001	Scott et al.	175	162	
	A6	6,309,002	10-30-2001	Bouligny	294	86.25	
	A7	6,199,641	03-13-2001	Downie et al.	175	55	
	A8	6,070,500	06-06-2000	Blask et al.	81	57.33	
	A9	6,056,060	05-02-2000	Abrahamsen et al.	166	380	
	A10	6,000,472	12-14-1999	Albright et al.	166	380	
	A11	5,971,079	10-26-1999	Mullins	166	387	
	A12	5,909,768	06-08-1999	Castille et al.	166	77.1	
	A13	5,836,395	11-17-1998	Budde	166	321	

Foreign Patent Documents

*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
							YES	NO
	B1	GB 2 357 530 A	06-27-2001	U.K.	E21B	19/07	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	B2	WO 00/39430	07-06-2000	WIPO	E21B	19/16	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	B3	WO 00/39429	07-06-2000	WIPO	E21B	19/16	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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*Examiner Initial		Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.
	C1	LaFleur Petroleum Services, Inc., "Autoseal Circulating Head," Engineering Manufacturing, 1992, 11 Pages
	C2	Valves Wellhead Equipment Safety Systems, W-K-M Division, ACF Industries, Catalog 80, 1980, 5 Pages

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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with your communication to applicant.

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U.S. Patent Documents

*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Issue Date	Applicant(s) Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	A14	5,803,191	09-08-1998	Mackintosh	175	170	
	A15	5,791,410	08-11-1998	Castille et al.	166	77.1	
	A16	5,735,348	04-07-1998	Hawkins, III	166	285	
	A17	5,645,131	07-08-1997	Trevisani	175	171	
	A18	5,584,343	12-17-1996	Coone	166	387	
	A19	5,577,566	11-26-1996	Albright et al.	175	321	
	A20	5,553,672	09-10-1996	Smith, Jr. et al.	166	382	
	A21	5,503,234	04-02-1996	Clanton	175	52	
	A22	5,501,286	03-26-1996	Berry	175	52	
	A23	5,433,279	07-18-1995	Tassari et al.	173	213	
	A24	5,388,651	02-14-1995	Berry	175	85	
	A25	5,351,767	10-04-1994	Stogner et al.	175	162	
	A26	5,297,833	03-29-1994	Willis et al.	294	102.2	
	A27	5,255,751	10-26-1993	Stogner	175	203	
	A28	5,251,709	10-12-1993	Richardson	175	220	
	A29	5,191,939	03-09-1993	Stokley	166	379	

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*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
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	B4	WO 00/11311	03-02-2000	WIPO	E21B	19/16	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	B5	WO 00/11310	03-02-2000	WIPO	E21B	19/16	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	B6	WO 00/11309	03-02-2000	WIPO	E21B	19/16	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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*Examiner Initial		Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.
	C3	"Canrig Top Drive Drilling Systems," Harts Petroleum Engineer International, February 1997, 2 Pages
	C4	"The Original Portable Top Drive Drilling System," TESCO Drilling Technology, 1997
	C5	Killalea, Mike, "Portable Top Drives: What's Driving The Market?" IADC, Drilling Contractor, September 1994, 4 Pages

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*EXAMINER: Initials of examiner considered whether or not citation is to be performed with MPER 200: Drawings: Attachments

U.S. Department of Commerce, Patent and Trademark Office		Docket No.	Serial No.
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Examiner Frank Tsay		Herewith	Unknown

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*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Issue Date	Applicant(s) Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	A30	5,036,927	08-06-1991	Willis	175	162	
	A31	5,009,265	04-23-1991	Bailey et al.	166	118	
	A32	4,997,042	03-05-1991	Jordan et al.	166	379	
	A33	4,878,546	11-07-1989	Shaw et al.	173	163	
	A34	4,867,236	09-19-1989	Haney et al.	166	77.5	
	A35	4,836,064	06-06-1989	Slator	81	57.18	
	A36	4,813,493	03-21-1989	Shaw et al.	173	164	
	A37	4,800,968	01-31-1989	Shaw et al.	175	85	
	A38	4,793,422	12-27-1988	Krasnov	175	57	
	A39	4,791,997	12-20-1988	Krasnov	175	57	
	A40	4,773,689	09-27-1988	Wolters	294	88	
	A41	4,765,401	08-23-1988	Boyadjieff	166	77.53	
	A42	4,762,187	08-09-1988	Haney	175	171	
	A43	4,759,239	07-26-1988	Hamilton et al.	81	57.34	

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*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
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	B7	WO 00/05483	03-02-2000	WIPO	E21B	19/16	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	B8	WO 98/11322	03-19-1998	WIPO	E21B	19/16	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	B9	WO 98/32948	07-30-1998	WIPO	E21B	19/16	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	B10	WO 98/05844	02-12-1998	WIPO	E21B	19/16	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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	C6	"500 or 650 ECIS Top Drive," Advanced permanent Magnet Motor Technology, TESCO Drilling Technology, April 1998, 2 Pages
	C7	"500 or 650 HCIS Top Drive," Powerful Hydraulic Compact Top Drive Drilling System, TESCO Drilling Technology, April 1998, 2 Pages
	C8	"Product Information (Sections 1-10), " CANRIG Drilling Technology, Ltd. September 18, 1996

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Examiner Frank Tsay		Herewith	Unknown

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*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Issue Date	Applicant(s) Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	A44	4,742,876	05-10-1988	Barthelemy et al.	175	7	
	A45	4,709,599	12-01-1987	Buck	81	57.18	
	A46	4,683,962	08-04-1987	True	173	163	
	A47	4,676,312	06-30-1987	Mosing et al.	166	77	
	A48	4,649,777	03-17-1987	Buck	81	57.19	
	A49	4,625,796	12-02-1986	Boyadjieff	166	77.5	
	A50	4,605,077	08-12-1986	Boyadjieff	175	85	
	A51	4,604,724	08-05-1986	Shaginian et al.	364	478	
	A52	4,593,773	06-10-1986	Skeie	175	85	
	A53	4,570,706	02-18-1986	Pugnet	166	77.5	
	A54	4,529,045	07-16-1985	Boyadjieff et al.	173	164	
	A55	4,494,424	01-22-1985	Bates	81	57.18	
	A56	4,449,596	05-22-1984	Boyadjieff	175	85	
	A57	4,437,363	03-20-1984	Haynes	81	57.18	
	A58	4,320,915	03-23-1982	Abbott et al.	294	96	

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*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
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	B11	WO 96/18799	06-20-1996	WIPO	E21B	19/06	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	B12	EP 0 659 975	06-28-1995	EP	E21B	43/08	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	B13	0 589 823 A1	03-03-1994	EP	E21B	19/06	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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	C9	
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*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Issue Date	Applicant(s) Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	A59	4,100,968	07-18-1978	Delano	166	315	
	A60	3,913,687	10-21-1975	Gyongyosi et al	175	85	
	A61	3,857,450	12-31-1974	Guier	175	85	
	A62	3,848,684	11-19-1974	West	175	195	
	A63	3,776,991	12-04-1973	Marcus	264	89	
	A64	3,776,320	12-04-1973	Brown	173	163	
	A65	3,747,675	07-24-1973	Brown	166	237	
	A66	3,691,825	09-19-1972	Dyer	73	136	
	A67	3,635,105	01-18-1972	Dickmann et a.	81	57.18	
	A68	3,570,598	03-16-1971	Johnson	166	178	
	A69	3,566,505	03-02-1971	Martin	29	200	
	A70	3,380,528	04-30-1968	Timmons	166	14	
	A71	3,193,116	07-06-1965	Kenneday et al.	214	2.5	

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*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
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	B14	WO 93/07358	04-15-1993	WIPO	E21B	37/00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	B15	GB 2 275 486A	04-15-1993	U.K.	E21B	37/00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	B16	0 525 247 A1	02-03-1993	EP	E21B	3/02	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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	C12	
	C13	
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U.S. Patent Documents

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	A72	3,041,901	07-03-1962	Knights	81	53	
	A73	1,917,135	07-04-1933	Littell			
	A74	2002/0134555A1	09-26-2002	Allen et al.	166	377	
	A75	2001/0042625A1	11-22-2001	Appleton	166	379	
	A76						
	A77						
	A78						
	A79						
	A80						
	A81						
	A82						

Foreign Patent Documents

*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
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	B17	GB 2 224 481A	09-05-1990	U.K.	B66C	1/56	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	B18	0 285 386 A2	10-05-1988	EP	E21B	19/16	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	B19	0 171 144 A1	02-12-1986	EP	E21B	19/06	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	B20	EP 01 62000A1	11-21-1985	EP	E21B	19/16	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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